

Commission on the Future of Economic Development
Minutes of Commission Meeting
February 12, 2007
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
6th Floor, National Life Building
Montpelier, VT

Members Present: Bill Botzow, Hope Crifo, Staige Davis, Kevin Dorn, John Goodrich, Fred Kenney, Mary Lintermann, David Mount, Hinda Miller, Mary Neibling, Dawn Terrill

Members Absent: Carl Spangler

9:05 am

Meeting called to order

9:07 am

Kevin Dorn made a motion to approve the January 8, 2007 meeting minutes as amended. Mary Lintermann seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9:10 am

Kevin Dorn made a motion to approve the October 24, 2006 meeting minutes. Dawn Terrill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Dorn requested a discussion regarding minutes, video-recording and the website. He suggested that the only things included in the minutes be who attended, when the meeting began, official actions and directions the commission gave to be done, and the time of adjournment. Kevin also stated that he does not support the use of taxpayer dollars to pay for video-recording when there is audio-recording free of charge and copies can be distributed. He also suggested that the only items to be posted on the website would be items or documents related to actions taken by the commission or documents published by the commission.

9:25 am

Hinda Miller made a motion to modify the formatting of the minutes to include the items described by Kevin Dorn as well as a succinct synopsis of who testified, to incorporate the website simplification suggestions made by Kevin Dorn, and to not use Commission funds for video-recording as well as allow audio-recording to be made available to the general public. Mary Lintermann seconded and the motion carried 8-2-0.

The Budget Committee reviewed the distributed budget sheet. There were no questions.

The RFP Committee stated they received three (3) bids and outlined their schedule for presenting their recommended consultant(s) to the Commission. The Committee is meeting this afternoon to discuss proposals. Committee members will check references this week and be prepared to conduct interviews on Monday, February 19, 2007. After those interviews, the committee will hold a conference call to determine their recommendation to the entire Commission and the Commission will meet via teleconference to hear the RFP Committee's recommendation and make a decision. The consultant will be chosen by March 2, 2007 and will be expected to attend

the March 12, 2007 Commission meeting. The RFP Committee will also research the conflict of interest issues and present that information with their proposal to the Commission.

Presenters:

Hope Crifo: Presented a spreadsheet that summarized priorities of different community economic development strategic plans.

John McClaughry, Ethan Allen Institute. He presented a power point titled: “Off the Rails: Changing Demographics, Changing Economics, Accumulating Obligations: How will Vermont Cope with a Challenging Future?” The presentation is available on their webpage at www.ethanallen.org

Fred Kenney, Vermont Economic Progress Council: He presented a summary of the 2002 “Decade of Progress” report and a summary of the three recommendations. The plans are supposed to be updated every five years by statute. The 2002 plan could serve as background for the Commission, although all the issues are ones Vermont still faces.

Maureen Connolly: Stressed to the Commission the difference between Economic Development Authority (EDA) approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and community strategies. There are only three EDA approved CEDS in the State of Vermont.

Mike Quinn, Department of Economic Development (DED): Reviewed the organization of the Department, how DED operates, funding sources, and the collaboration efforts between the Regional Development Corporations and the Department.

12:10 pm

How do we organize from meeting to meeting?

John Goodrich has received numerous emails from people who wish to testify before the Commission. He suggested organizing a list and giving to the RFP winner to categorize. The commission began to discuss the RFP process.

12:23 pm

Bill Botzow made a motion to enter executive session citing 1 VSA 313(a)(1) to discuss the RFP contract process. Staige Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

12:50 pm

Staige Davis made a motion to exit executive session. Mary Lintermann seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting:

- ❖ John will draft a letter to the legislature requesting additional funding to continue the Commission’s work in contributing to the economic plan
- ❖ Will meet w/ RFP winner and ask them to outline their workplan – ask for distribution prior to meeting
- ❖ Will ask Sec of Admin to make presentation on long term financial concerns they have.

- ❖ Will ask for VT Business Roundtable to present their report.
- ❖ Suggestion that Steve Klein of the Joint Fiscal Office give a presentation. The JFO compiles data that is distributed statewide. Ask them what they could talk to us about – funds we track – where the funds are going and what they see out there. Almost 45% of the budget is not tracked and can they give us input on that?
- ❖ Other suggestions for people to hear from:
 - Job creators
 - Think about who is the audience, younger people?

1:05 pm

Dawn Terrill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Staige Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes drafted by Jayna Guilford: 2/12/2007

Approved by the Commission: 3/12/2007